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FRANCE - ALGERIA

I. Despite substantial agreement on most major points of issue, an accord between Paris and the provisional Algerian government is not yet in sight.

A. Difficulties continue over the status of the Europeans, for whom Paris wants specific language and religious guarantees and special legal status.

B. Deterioration of public order increases doubts as to whether either side could enforce a cease-fire.

II. The anti-De Gaulle Secret Army Organization will attempt to block any move to cut Algeria's ties to France.

A. The OAS is now in virtual control of parts of Algeria, and appears ready to try to upset a settlement by attempting a de facto partition in the Algiers and Oran areas.

B. Short of a last ditch desperate effort, however, an OAS decision to launch a coup would probably depend on the outlook for a simultaneous supporting move in France itself.

III. While De Gaulle can probably rally the French public in a showdown, the outcome will hinge on the army's obedience.

A. De Gaulle's efforts to condition the army to its responsibilities in Europe by announcing more troops will soon leave Algeria may be nullified by the worsening security situation.

B. Growing open criticism of De Gaulle from broad segments of the French public may encourage indecision among army officers when the OAS decides to move.

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